

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for transferring image data to a service provider, comprising:

an image source configured to provide said image data; and

an image pump configured to receive said image data from said image source by at least one of a wireless connection, a hard-wired connection, and a form of removable storage, and responsively provide said image data to said service provider, said service provider being implemented to include a photofinishing system, said image pump being implemented separately from said image source and said service provider, in a non-integral manner, for transferring said image data from said image source to said service provider, said image pump being implemented in a simplified configuration without an internal processor, a system user instructing said image pump to transfer said image data from said image pump to said service provider by activating image-data transfer means of said image pump.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said image pump is further configured to receive audio data from said image source and to send said audio data to said service provider.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said image pump is further configured to receive text data from said image source and to send said text data to said service provider.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said image source communicates with said image pump via said wireless connection.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said image source communicates with said image pump via said hard-wired connection.
6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said image source stores said image data on said form of removable storage that may be coupled with said image pump.
7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said image pump communicates with said service provider via a wireless connection.
8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said image pump communicates with said service provider via a hard-wired connection.
9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said hard-wired connection includes an Ethernet connection.
10. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said hard-wired connection comprises a network connection that includes a public switched telephone network.
11. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said image pump stores said image data on a form of removable storage that may be transported to said service provider.
12. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said image pump includes an image pump manager configured to control a transfer of said image data from said image source to said service provider.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein said image pump manager configures said image data to conform to a format required by said service provider.
14. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said image pump includes customer account information that is communicated to said service provider.
15. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said image source includes an image pump manager configured to control a transfer of said image data from said image source to said service provider.
16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein said image pump manager configures said image data to conform to a format required by said service provider.
17. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said image source includes customer account information that is communicated to said service provider.
18. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said image pump includes a touchscreen for displaying said image data to a user.
19. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein said user makes service selections using said touchscreen.
20. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said image pump is further configured to determine user service selections and transfer said user service selections to said service provider.
21. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said image pump is operated by depressing a user-activated button.

22. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said image source is a digital camera.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein said image pump is implemented in said digital camera.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for transferring image data to a service provider, comprising the steps of:

capturing said image data utilizing an image source;

sending said image data from said image source to an image pump by at least one of a wireless connection, a hard-wired connection, and a form of removable storage, said image pump being implemented separately from said image source and said service provider, in a non-integral manner, for transferring said image data from said image source to said service provider, said service provider being implemented to include a photofinishing system, said image pump being implemented in a simplified configuration without an internal processor; and

providing said image data to said service provider by utilizing said image pump after a system user instructs said image pump to transfer said image data from said image pump to said service provider by activating image-data transfer means of said image pump.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said image pump is configured to receive audio data from said image source and to send said audio data to said service provider.

26. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said image pump is configured to receive text data from said image source and to send said text data to said service provider.
27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said image data is sent to said image pump via said wireless connection.
28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said image data is sent to said image pump via said hard-wired connection.
29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said image data is stored on said form of removable storage that may be coupled with said image pump.
30. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said image pump communicates with said service provider via a wireless connection.
31. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said image pump communicates with said service provider via a hard-wired connection.
32. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein said hard-wired connection includes an Ethernet connection.
33. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein said hard-wired connection comprises a network connection that includes a public switched telephone network.
34. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said image pump stores said image data on a form of removable storage that may be transported to said service provider.

35. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said image pump includes an image pump manager configured to control a transfer of said image data from said image source to said service provider.
36. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein said image pump manager configures said image data to conform to a format required by said service provider.
37. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said image pump includes customer account information that is communicated to said service provider.
38. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said image source includes an image pump manager configured to control a transfer of said image data from said image source to said service provider.
39. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein said image pump manager configures said image data to conform to a format required by said service provider.
40. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said image source includes customer account information that is communicated to said service provider.
41. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said image pump includes a touchscreen for displaying said image data to a user.
42. (Original) The method of claim 41, wherein said user makes service selections using said touchscreen.

43. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said image pump is configured to determine user service selections and transfer said user service selections to said service provider.
44. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said image pump is operated by depressing a user-activated button.
45. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said image data is captured by a digital camera.
46. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein said image pump is implemented in said digital camera.
47. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of establishing customer account information with said service provider.

48. (Currently Amended) A method for transferring image data to a photography service provider, comprising the steps of:

- capturing image data utilizing an image source;
- sending said image data from said image source to an image pump that is implemented in a simplified configuration without an internal processor;
- attaching customer account information to said image data;
- sending said image data and said customer account information from said image pump to said service provider;
- reviewing said image data and said customer account information for accuracy and ~~transmission~~ format errors, said photography service provider determining whether said image data and said customer account information have one or more transmission errors after being transferred from said image pump, said photography service provider requesting said image pump to transmit said image data and said customer account information again if said one or more transmission errors are detected;
- providing requested photography services by said service provider; and
- returning a final product in the form of one or more photographs to a user, said photography service provider then charging said user for said final product by referencing billing information from said customer account information.

49. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium comprising program instructions for transferring image data to a service provider, by performing the steps of:

- capturing image data utilizing an image source;
- sending said image data from said image source to an image pump, said image pump being implemented separately from said image source for receiving said image data; and
- providing said image data to said service provider by utilizing said image pump.

50. (Original) A system for transferring image data to a service provider, comprising:

- means for capturing image data;
- means for sending said image data to an image pump; and
- means for sending said image data to said service provider utilizing said image pump.

51. (Currently Amended) A system for remotely transferring image data to a photography service provider, comprising:

an image source for initially providing said image data; and

an image pump configured to receive said image data from said image source via source transfer means between said image source and said image pump, said image pump being implemented in a simplified configuration without an internal processor, said image pump responsively providing said image data to said photography service provider via destination transfer means between said image pump and said photography service provider, said image pump being implemented in a non-integral manner that is physically separate from said image source for receiving said image data, said photography service provider responsively processing said image data to produce one or more corresponding photographic images, a system user instructing said image pump to transfer said image data from said image pump to said photography service provider by activating image-data transfer means of said image pump.

52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51 wherein said image source may be implemented as one of a digital camera, an Internet-enabled computer device, a scanner device, a cellular telephone, and a portable-personal-digital assistant device, said image source having a data attachment capability for attaching text data and audio data to said image data, said text data and said audio data including user commentary information regarding said image data.

53. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51 wherein said source transfer means allows said image source to download said image data to said image pump, said source transfer means being external to said image source and said image pump, and wherein said destination transfer means allows said image pump to upload said image data to said photography service provider, said destination transfer means being external to said image pump and said photography service provider.

54. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 53 wherein said source transfer means includes a wireless connection, a hard-wired connection, and a form of removable storage for alternately downloading said image data from said image source to said image pump, and wherein said destination transfer means includes a wireless connection, a hard-wired connection, and a form of removable storage for alternately uploading said image data from said image pump to said photography service provider.

55. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51 wherein said image pump includes a processor device that executes an image pump manager program to present individual images from said image data on a local display device for viewing by a system user, said system user using a local input device to select one or more desired images from said individual images for uploading to said photography service provider, said system user also utilizing said image pump manager program to attach specific photographic processing instructions to said one or more desired images for subsequent utilization by said photography service provider.

56. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51 wherein said image source includes an image-source processor device that downloads and executes an image pump manager program from said image pump to present individual images from said image data on a local image-source display device for viewing by a system user, said system user using a local image-source input device to select one or more desired images from said individual images for uploading to said photography service provider, said system user also utilizing said image pump manager program to attach specific photographic processing instructions to said one or more desired images for subsequent utilization by said photography service provider, said image pump device being economically implemented without an internal processor device.

57. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 51 wherein~~ A system for remotely transferring image data to a photography service provider, comprising:

an image source for initially providing said image data; and
an image pump configured to receive said image data from said image source via source transfer means between said image source and said image pump, said image pump being implemented in a simplified configuration without an internal processor, said image pump responsively providing said image data to said photography service provider via destination transfer means between said image pump and said photography service provider, said image pump being implemented in a non-integral manner that is physically separate from said image source for receiving said image data, said photography service provider responsively processing said image data to produce one or more corresponding photographic images, said image pump is implemented in a being implemented in said simplified configuration that initially downloads said image data from said image source, a system user then limiting user interactions only to signaling said image pump to transfer said

image data from said image pump to said photography service provider by physically activating basic image-data transfer means, said image pump being implemented without a video display and an internal central processing unit, said image pump having only said basic image-data transfer means for purposes of user interactions with said system user.

58. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51 wherein said image pump includes a processor device that executes an image pump manager program to attach customer account information to said image data for subsequent utilization by said photography service provider, said customer account information including a system user name, a system user address, a system user account number, and system user billing information.

59. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 58 wherein a system user initially contacts said photography service provider to supply system user information, said photography service provider responsively generating said customer account information and sending said customer account information to said system user, who then locally stores said customer account information in an electronic format for access by said image pump manager program for attaching to said image data prior to uploading said image data to said photography service provider.

60. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 58 wherein said photography service provider analyzes said image data and said customer account information for accuracy and ~~transmission~~ format errors to determine whether said image data and said customer account information are acceptable after being transferred from said image pump via said destination transfer means, said photography service provider checking said image data for formatting errors and comparing said customer account information with local customer information records for account errors, said photography service provider requesting said image pump to transmit said image data and said customer account information again if one of said formatting errors and said account errors are detected.

61. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51 wherein said image pump includes a processor device that executes an image pump manager program to convert said image data from said image source into a compatible data format for subsequent utilization by said photography service provider.

62. (Currently Amended) A method for remotely transferring image data to a photography service provider, comprising the steps of:

capturing image data by utilizing an image source;

providing said image data to an image pump that is integral with said image source;

converting said image data into an image data format that is compatible with said photography service provider by utilizing an image pump manager program;

attaching user-defined image selection information, user-defined photography processing instructions, and customer account information to said image data by utilizing said image pump manager program;

transferring said image data and said customer account information from said image pump to said service provider;
reviewing said image data and said customer account information for accuracy and ~~transmission~~ format errors at said photography service provider;
providing requested services to said image data by said service provider; and
returning a final photograph product to a user.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62 wherein said image source is implemented as one of a scanner device, a cellular telephone, a portable personal-digital-assistant device, and an Internet-enabled computer device that downloads said image data from an Internet source.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62 wherein said image source includes a processor device that executes an image pump manager program to convert said image data into a compatible data format for subsequent utilization by said photography service provider.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62 wherein said image source includes a processor device that executes an image pump manager program to attach customer account information to said image data for subsequent utilization by said photography service provider, said customer account information including a system user name, a system user address, a system user account number, and system user billing information, said photography service provider analyzing said image data and said customer account information for accuracy to determine whether said image data and said customer account information are acceptable after being transferred from said image pump via said destination transfer means, said photography service provider checking said image data for formatting errors and comparing said customer account information with local customer information records for

account errors, said photography service provider requesting said image pump to re-transmit said image data and said customer account information if one of said formatting errors and said account errors are detected.

66. (Previously Presented) A system for remotely transferring image data to a photography service provider, comprising:

- an image source for initially providing said image data; and

- an image pump configured to receive said image data from said image source via source transfer means between said image source and said image pump, said image pump responsively providing said image data to said photography service provider via destination transfer means between said image pump and said photography service provider, said image pump being implemented in a non-integral manner that is physically separate from both said image source and said photography service provider, said image pump being implemented in a simplified configuration without an internal central processing unit and without a video display, said photography service provider responsively processing said image data to produce one or more corresponding photographic images.

67. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 66 wherein said image pump initially downloads said image data from said image source, a system user then limiting user interactions only to signaling said image pump to transfer said image data from said image pump to said photography service provider by physically activating basic image-data transfer means, said image pump having only said basic image-data transfer means for purposes of user interactions with said system user.

68. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 67 wherein said basic image data transfer means include a manual push-button device for signaling said image pump to transfer said image data from said image pump to said photography service provider.

69. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 66 wherein said source transfer means is external to both said image source and said image pump, said source transfer means including a wireless connection, a hard-wired connection, and a form of removable storage for alternately downloading said image data from said image source to said image pump, said destination transfer means being external to both said image pump and said photography service provider, said destination transfer means including a wireless connection, a hard-wired connection, and a form of removable storage for alternately uploading said image data from said image pump to said photography service provider.